

PSCI 3110: The Legislative Process
Fall 2019

Specifications for LegSim Mini-Project #2: LegSim Profile

To earn credit for Mini-Project #2, you must:

- Complete all of the items on this list in LegSim by Sunday, September 15 at 11:59 pm.
- Create a LegSim account.
- Join a political party under the “Organizations” tab.
You may create a new party if you do not want to join an existing party.
- Upload a photo of yourself to your profile. (This will help students learn who the other members of the class are.)
- Answer the 5 survey questions on your LegSim profile.
- Select your constituency from the drop-down menu on the “Edit Profile” page.
- Write a personal statement to introduce yourself to other members of the Congress. Include relevant background information and note any policy issues you are particularly interested in. You will earn credit for your personal statement if:
 - It is between 100 and 200 words.
 - It is written clearly (in sentences) with no more than 3 grammatical or spelling errors.
- Write a state profile. You will earn credit for your profile if:
 - It is between 200 and 350 words.
 - It is written clearly (in paragraphs) with no more than 4 grammatical or spelling errors.
 - It provides information about the state’s economy acquired from appropriate sources.
 - It provides basic demographic information about the state’s residents (socio-economic status, education, racial diversity, etc.) acquired from appropriate sources.
 - It provides information about the partisan makeup of the state. (Which party tends to win presidential elections in your state? What is the makeup of the state’s congressional delegation? Is the state politically competitive or is it a one-party dominant state?)
 - It uses information from at least 2 reputable sources (see list on the next page) and includes complete citations to those sources.

Helpful Resources for the Mini-Project #2: LegSim Profile

- LegSim Legislative Resources page: <http://info.legsim.org/students/resources/>
- U.S. Census Info: <http://www.census.gov>
- CQ Press's *Politics in America* provides biographies of current members of Congress and state/district profiles. You can access them by doing the following:
 1. Go to <http://library.unt.edu>.
 2. Click the "Databases" Tab at the top of the search box at the top of the screen.
 3. Enter "CQ" in the search box and click "Search"
 4. Click "CQ Press" in the list of returned results.
 5. Click "Connect to CQ Press."
 6. Click "Politics in America."

From here you can search for information by state or current member of Congress.

A Sample Constituency Profile for a House District (KY-02)

My district is located in Western Kentucky. The largest population centers in the district are Bowling Green and Owensboro. The district is nearly evenly split between rural and urban dwellers and, accordingly, reflects diverse economic interests. Western Kentucky University—a public university with an enrollment of over 21,000 students—is located in Bowling Green, where it is the community’s largest employer. Elsewhere in the district, auto parts manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism are important economic drivers. Corn and soybeans are the dominant crops in Daviess County while Barren County is the state’s top burly tobacco producer. The primary draws for tourists are Mammoth Cave National Park (the world’s longest known cave system), parts of the region’s Bourbon Trail (Jim Beam is distilled in the district), and the International Bluegrass Museum.

The district is decidedly conservative, although registered Democrats outnumber Republicans. The second district has been represented by Republicans since 1994. Mitt Romney earned 63.3% of the district-level vote in the 2012 election and John McCain earned 61.5% of the district-level vote in the 2008 presidential election. The district’s politics are unsurprising given the political tenor of the state, which is currently represented by two Republicans in the United States Senate. Five of six members of the state’s House delegation are Republicans. Nearly ninety percent of the district’s residents are white. Three percent identify as Hispanic or Latino and six percent identify as black or African-American.

The second district reflects the diversity of the state’s economy which draws heavily on agriculture and manufacturing. Mining is also an important industry to the state economy, with coal, natural gas, and petroleum being key natural resources. The state economic outlook reveals the challenges faced by the state. Kentucky was recently identified as the 46th poorest state by 24/7 Wall Street. The median household income is \$41,724 and the state is characterized by high unemployment (44th out of 50, as of November 2013) and a large number of families living in poverty (5th highest).

Resources:

Daily Kos Elections’ Presidential Results by Congressional District for the 2012 and 2008 Elections. *Daily Kos*. <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/11/19/1163009/-Daily-Kos-Elections-presidential-results-by-congressional-district-for-the-2012-2008-elections> (January 13, 2014).

“Guthrie, Brett, R-KY” in *Politics in America 2014* (the 113th Congress), edited by Chris White and Amanda H. Allen. Washington, D.C.: CQ–Roll Call, Inc.http://library.cqpress.com/pia/document.php?id=OEpia113_410 (January 13, 2014).

Michael A. Sauter, Alexander E.M. Hess, and Thomas C. Frohlich. 2013. “America’s Richest (and Poorest) States.” 24/7 Wall St., September 19. <http://247wallst.com/special-report/2013/09/19/americas-richest-and-poorest-states/6/> (January 13, 2014).

U.S. Department of Commerce. United States Census Bureau. “My Congressional District.” www.census.gov/mycd/ (January 13, 2014).

U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “Local Area Unemployment Statistics: Unemployment Rates for States.” November 2013. <http://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm> (January 13, 2014).